

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-6 and 8-10 are pending in the captioned application and have been finally rejected. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration.

The only issue is whether the claims are anticipated by Musil et al. Applicants respectively disagree.

Applicants submit that Musil relates to ion-exchange chromatography (page 7, lines 19-20). Although the TMAE resin is porous, it is not a combination which enables both ion-exchange and size exclusion in a single resin as claimed by Applicants. Ion exchange (IE) and size exclusion (SE) are commonly employed by prior art, as noted by Musil, as two unique and separate unit operations in processes related to separation of biopolymers (paragraph bridging pages 6-7). Musil has no suggestion for any possibility for using both SE and IE in one operation by using the same resin.

Applicants submit that even though the TMAE resin in Musil has internal and external ligands, it can not separate plasmids to the external ligands and RNA to the internal (pore) ligands as in the present invention. The beads of Applicants' separation matrix have been engineered with a size exclusion limit that enables this. For Musil to achieve both anion-exchange and size exclusion, two different chromatography steps need to be used in serial. Applicants enabled a novel method that uses one single step.

The claims are novel over Musil.

Applicants respectfully request a notice of allowance for claims 1-6 and 8-10.

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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